



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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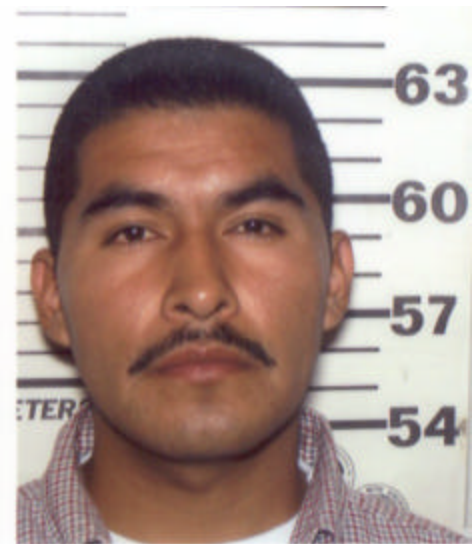
News Release

MAN WHO RAPED NORTHFIELD 12-YEAR-OLD DEPORTED

BLOOMINGTON, Minn.—U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers Wednesday deported a man convicted in December 2000 of raping a 12-year-old Northfield girl a year earlier.

Sergio Mora-Dector, 32, of Mexico, had previously been deported in August 1999 and has a criminal history that began in 1992 in California and includes auto theft, larceny and two burglary convictions.

Mora-Dector illegally re-entered the United States in September 1999 and moved to Northfield, according to government records. He was living at the victim's parents' home in December 1999 when he raped the girl.



When he learned that police were looking for him, Mora-Dector fled to California and then to Las Vegas. He was arrested at a telephone booth in Las Vegas by police while talking to the victim's older sister, who was in Northfield.

Mora-Dector was extradited to Minnesota to face rape charges. In December 2000 he was convicted of first-degree criminal sexual conduct in Rice County District Court and sentenced to 80 months imprisonment.

"Targeting people like Mora-Dector is a top priority for us," said ICE St. Paul Field Office Director Scott Baniecke. "Those who victimize the most vulnerable among us will be sought out, apprehended and removed." Baniecke manages ICE Detention and Removal Operations in a five-state area, including Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota.

Mora-Dector's removal is part of Operation Predator, a nationwide ICE initiative designed to protect children from sexual predators, including those who travel overseas for sex with minors, Internet child pornographers, criminal alien sex offenders, and child sex traffickers. Since Operation Predator was launched in July 2003, ICE agents in Minnesota have arrested 120 alleged sexual predators to date, making it among the top ten states nationwide for apprehensions. Nationwide, ICE agents have arrested more than 4,000 sexual predators.

Since the federal government's fiscal year reporting period began Oct. 1 and up through July 31, ICE St. Paul officers have removed 3,133 people who originally came from more than 40 countries. Of the 3,133 removals, 1,535 were criminal aliens. The remainder had committed immigration status violations.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). ICE seeks to prevent acts of terrorism by targeting the people, money and materials that support terror and criminal networks.